



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231
WWW.USPTO.GOV

KM:8-01

Paper No: 31

EXXONMOBIL CHEMICAL COMPANY
LAW TECHNOLOGY
P.O. BOX 2149
BAYTOWN, TX 77522-2149

COPY MAILED

AUG 29 2001

In re Application of
Vaughn et al.
Filed: 17 June, 1997
Application No. 08/877,684
Attorney Docket No. 96B035/2

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

ON PETITION

This is a decision on the renewed petition filed herein on 17 August, 2001, under ¶ "b" of 37 C.F.R. §1.137.¹ to revive the above-identified application.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The record indicates that:

- Petitioner failed to timely respond to the final Office action mailed on 3 November, 2000, with a shortened statutory deadline of 3 February,

¹ The regulations at 37 C.F.R. §1.137 provide:

§ 1.137 Revival of abandoned application, terminated reexamination proceeding, or lapsed patent.

(b) *Unintentional*. If the delay in reply by applicant or patent owner was unintentional, a petition may be filed pursuant to this paragraph to revive an abandoned application, a reexamination proceeding terminated under §§1.550(d) or 1.957(b) or (c), or a lapsed patent. A grantable petition pursuant to this paragraph must be accompanied by:

- (1) The reply required to the outstanding Office action or notice, unless previously filed;
- (2) The petition fee as set forth in §1.17(m);
- (3) A statement that the entire delay in filing the required reply from the due date for the reply until the filing of a grantable petition pursuant to this paragraph was unintentional. The Commissioner may require additional information where there is a question whether the delay was unintentional; and

(4) Any terminal disclaimer (and fee as set forth in §1.20(d)) required pursuant to paragraph (d) of this section.

(c) *Reply*. In a nonprovisional application abandoned for failure to prosecute, the required reply may be met by the filing of a continuing application. In a nonprovisional utility or plant application filed on or after June 8, 1995, and abandoned for failure to prosecute, the required reply may also be met by the filing of a request for continued examination in compliance with § 1.114. In an application or patent, abandoned or lapsed for failure to pay the issue fee or any portion thereof, the required reply must include payment of the issue fee or any outstanding balance. In an application, abandoned for failure to pay the publication fee, the required reply must include payment of the publication fee.

[47 Fed. Reg. 41277, Sept. 17, 1982, effective Oct. 1, 1982; para. (b) 48 Fed. Reg. 2713, Jan. 20, 1983, effective Feb. 27, 1983; paras. (a) - (c), paras. (d) & (e) added, 58 Fed. Reg. 44277, Aug. 20, 1993, effective Sept. 20, 1993; para. (c) revised, 60 Fed. Reg. 20195, Apr. 25, 1995, effective June 8, 1995; revised, 62 Fed. Reg. 53131, Oct. 10, 1997, effective Dec. 1, 1997; para. (c) revised, 65 Fed. Reg. 54604, Sept. 8, 2000, effective Sept. 8, 2000; revised, 65 Fed. Reg. 57024, Sept. 20, 2000, effective Nov. 29, 2000]

2001 (a Saturday, allowing an acceptable mailing date of 5 February, 2001);

- a three (3) month extension of time and an amendment under 37 C.F.R. 116 were filed on 10 May, 2001 (with a certificate of mailing dated 3 May, 2001) but the amendment was not a proper response to the final Office action, as reflected by the Advisory Action mailed on 23 May, 2001²;
- the application became abandoned at midnight on 3 May, 2001;
- a Notice of Abandonment was mailed on 18 June, 2001
- a Request for Continued Examination and a reply to the previous Office action were filed on 17 August, 2001.

This application will be forwarded to Technology Center 1700 for further processing.

Telephone inquiries concerning this matter may be directed to Kathy Matecki at (703) 305-1645.



John J. Gillon, Jr.
Attorney
Office of Petitions
Office of the Deputy Commissioner
for Patent Examination Policy

² The proper response to the final Office action (see: Fn. 1, item (1); MPEP 711.03(c)) must be in the form of: (a) an amendment *prima facie* placing the application in condition for allowance; (b) a Notice of Appeal; or (c) a continuing application.